

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A biologically pure culture of a strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* which is adherent to Caco-2 and HT-29 cells, and is isolated from resected and washed human gastrointestinal tract, ~~which~~ wherein said strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* has the following properties:

a) binds to ~~retains its ability to bind~~ human epithelial cells and inhibits a broad range of Gram positive and Gram negative microorganisms;

b) secretes a product having antimicrobial activity into a cell-free supernatant, wherein said product having antimicrobial activity is produced only by growing cells and wherein said antimicrobial activity is destroyed by proteinase K and pronase E; and

c) maintains the ~~inhibitory~~ properties of a) inhibiting said Gram positive and Gram negative microorganisms, and ~~the secretory~~ secreting said product ~~products of b) having antimicrobial activity,~~ in the presence of physiological concentrations of human bile and human gastric juice.

2. **(Original)** A biologically pure culture of the strain according to Claim 1, wherein the strain has antagonistic activity against bacteria but which does not inhibit closely related *Lactobacillus*.

3. **(Original)** A biologically pure culture of *Lactobacillus salivarius* strain UCC 1 (NCIMB 40830) or a variant thereof having the same antimicrobial and adhesive properties as said UCC 1.

4. **(Original)** A biologically pure culture of *Lactobacillus salivarius* strain UCC 118(NCIMB 40829) or a variant thereof having the same antimicrobial and adhesive properties as said UCC 118.

5. **(Original)** A health promoting product containing an isolated or purified strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* according to any one of Claims 1-4 as a probiotic.

6. **(Original)** The biologically pure culture of the strain according to Claim 2, wherein said strain has antagonistic activity against a bacterium selected from the group consisting of *Listeria*, *Staphylococcus*, *Bacillus*, *Clostridium*, *Helicobacter*, *Pseudomonas*, *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, *Bacteroides* and *Streptococcus pneumonia*.

7. (Currently Amended) A biologically pure culture of strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* which is adherent to Caco-2 and HT-29 cells, ~~and~~ said strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* has the following properties:

a) ~~binds to~~ retains its ability to bind human epithelial cells and inhibits a broad range of Gram positive and Gram negative microorganisms;

b) secretes a product having antimicrobial activity into a cell-free supernatant, wherein said product having antimicrobial activity is produced only by growing cells and wherein said antimicrobial activity is destroyed by proteinase K and pronase E;

c) maintains the ~~inhibitory~~ properties of a) inhibiting said Gram positive and Gram negative microorganisms, and the secretory secreting said product products of b) having antimicrobial activity, in the presence of physiological concentrations of human bile and human gastric juice; and

d) is isolated from resected and washed human appendix, large intestine or small intestine, and which is adherent thereto.